



United States Department of Justice National Sex Offender Public Registry

Recent tragic events have shown that, while much has been accomplished to register sex offenders and provide community notification, more can be done. Real-time access to public registry information nationwide is essential for citizens to help identify sex offenders beyond their own streets or neighborhoods.

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has designed an effective and affordable technology strategy—searching already-existing public state and territory sex offender registries—to meet this immediate need and to deliver this critical information to America's communities.



WHAT IT IS

The National Sex Offender Public Registry (NSOPR) uses the Internet to search for and display public sex offender data from state and territory registries through a single query. NSOPR's design:

- ★ Promotes public safety by using already-existing sex offender data.
- ★ Minimizes the time and funding required to create a new repository.
- ★ Requires no special certifications, training, or fees for users.
- ★ Allows state and local agencies to retain control over their data.

HOW IT WORKS

Mirroring industry standards, the technology for NSOPR is relatively simple: Web services and the U.S. Department of Justice's Global Justice eXtensible Markup Language (XML) common computer language establish a link between already-built and maintained public state and territory sex offender registries. The link then allows data from different hardware and software systems to be recognized and shown through the national search site. NSOPR provides an opportunity for states and territories to participate in an unprecedented public safety resource by sharing public sex offender data nationwide.

WHY IT MATTERS

What would we do to protect just one child from the terrible and senseless acts of a sex offender? A secure and reliable national search site that gives citizens immediate access to public sex offender information across states is a vital step in protecting lives and reducing and preventing sex crimes and violence nationwide.

AT-A-GLANCE

- ★ An information sharing system is the fastest way to get critical data to those who need it.
- ★ No government system exists to link, securely and free of charge, public state and territory sex offender registries to a national search site.
- ★ Using Web services and DOJ XML, the U.S. Department of Justice is linking to existing public state sex offender registries to provide a national search tool for parents and other concerned Americans.
- ★ Through any Web-capable computer, citizens can enter a name, state, county, city/town, or zip code to search for registered sex offenders across states.
- ★ NSOPR met its first milestone to have 20 states live and available for public searches on July 20, 2005.
- ★ The U.S. Department of Justice is working with remaining states to help link them to NSOPR in coming months.